

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides a novel approach to gene  
5 therapy of restricted areas such as tumors. The methods introduced  
here comprise: (a) placing a gene of interest in a plasmid vector  
driven by a heat or light inducible promoter; (b) modifying this vector  
by including a tetracycline responsive fusion protein which acts as a  
transcriptional activator, thus permitting regulation of gene  
10 expression by varying the levels of drug and; (c) modifying this vector  
by including DNA sequences that reduce or eliminate expression of  
genes in normal bystander cells. Also provided are a set of vectors for  
both sustained and regulable expression. There is also presented  
novel vectors for the gene therapy treatment of local and metastatic  
15 breast, ovarian and prostate cancer.